



*Leo Bearman*

## *Leo Edward Bearman*

Leo Bearman, president of the grand lodge district No. 7 of B'nai B'rith, past state president of B'nai B'rith and advisor of the local chapter No. 71 of the Aleph Zadik Aleph, was born in St. Louis, Mo., November 29, 1902, the youngest son of Morris Bearman and Eva Ostrich Bearman. When Mr. Bearman was five years of age, his parents moved to Memphis, Tenn., where he has lived ever since.

Mr. Bearman attended the Leath Grammar School and upon graduation entered the Central High School, where he made the four year course in three years. He was later graduated from Vanderbilt in the class of '24 receiving his L.L.B. Degree and second highest honors in the class. While in this college, Mr. Bearman identified himself as a capable debater, being a member of the Tau Delta Phi, a National Forensic Society. In his freshman year, he won the Founder's medal, and later the Frank K. Houston Oratory Prize. While a member of the Vandy debate team, Mr. Bearman travelled with that team throughout the South debating every prominent college. In this entire tour they never lost a debate. Before being graduated Mr. Bearman was made president of the oldest Literary Club in that institution.

Mr. Bearman is one of the outstanding B'nai B'rith leaders in the South. In 1927, he was elected president of the Sam Schloss Lodge No. 35. Several outstanding events marked his history as president of this lodge, among which was the sponsoring of the Memphis Chapter No. 71 of the A.Z.A., the Junior B'nai B'rith, the founding of the local Hillel Club, which is now termed the B'nai B'rith College Club, and by far the greatest achievement was the increasing of the lodge from 475 members to that of 1,100 members making his lodge the sixth largest in the world. In 1929 Mr. Bearman was presented with a five hundred dollar diamond medal at the District Grand Lodge convention held in Houston Texas. He was later made state president of the B'nai B'rith, president of Sam Schloss Lodge B'nai Brith and president of the District Grand Lodge No. 7. As president of the Sam Schloss Lodge, Mr. Bearman did much to strengthen the lodge in the Memphis Territory and was instrumental in the reorganization of the lodges in Clarksdale, Cleveland, Miss. and Blytheville, Ark.

At present Mr. Bearman is a member of the Supreme Advisory Council of the A. Z. A., past master of the Lelia Scott Masonic Lodge No. 289, and a 32nd degree mason and Shriner.

Mr. Bearman has the distinction of being a member of the first class of the De Molay organization. For the past seven years, he has been a teacher at the Junior Congregation of the Children of Israel Temple. Mr. Bearman was Deputy Divorce Proctor of Tennessee in 1929, and now a member of the law firm of Winchester and Bearman, located in the Bank of Commerce Building.

Mr. Bearman gives the Leo Bearman award each year to the most efficient member of the A. Z. A.

Member of the Board of Trustees of Congregation Children of Israel—Secretary and member of the Board of Governors of the B'nai B'rith Home.